

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6271

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: CHARGE'S FAREWELL CALL ON FONMIN VAN DER STOEL

1. I SAW FONMIN VAN DER STOEL MORNING OF JULY 14 AT LATTER'S REQUEST AS HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND AMBASSADOR GOULD'S FAREWELL DINNER FOR ME EARLIER THIS MONTH. AFTER VAN DER STOEL HAD CONCLUDED HIS WARM PERSONAL REMARKS, I ASKED HIM WHAT OBSERVATIONS RE THE US-DTUCH RELATIONSHIP HE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE WITH ME AS I CONCLUDED MY THREE YEARS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

2. SPEAKING WITH HIS CHARACTERISTIC FRANKNESS AND LACK OF PRETENSE, VAN DER STOEL SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WAS STILL STRONG AND DEEP. THE KLM ISSUE HAD CAST A BIG CLOUD OVER THE LANDSCAPE AND IT MIGHT RE-EMERGE TO CAUSE US SERIOUS PROBLEMS AT A LATER DATE. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THE ISSUE WAS HAPPILY QUIESCENT.

3. VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT IF HE HAD ONE WISH TO EXPRESS IT WAS TO INTENSIFY THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS BETWEEN THE US GOVERNMENT AND HIS OWN. HE HAD VERY MUCH IN MIND A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE NETHERLANDS, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH NEXT DECEMBER'S NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH HE SAID HE HAD ALREADY MENTIONED TO THE SECRETARY. VAN DER STOEL ALSO SUGGESTED THE DESIRABILITY OF POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN CONSULTING IN WASHINGTON NEXT FALL IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ATTENDANCE AT PART OF THE UNGA. THIS WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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SERVE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF RUTTEN'S FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST MAY.

4. APART FROM KLM, THE ONLY ISSUE WHICH VAN DER STOEL MENTIONED

AS CAPABLE OF DISTURBING US-DUTCH RELATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS SPAIN, WHERE VAN DER STOEL HOPED THE US WOULD CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION ON THE SUCCESSOR REGIME RATHER THAN TRYING TO STRENGTHEN THE LAST DAYS OF FRANCO'S REGIME BY GIVING IT A BETTER ENTREE. VAN DER STOEL CITED THE EXAMPLE OF GREECE, WHERE IN HIS VIEW THE US HAD CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR ITSELF WITH THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT AS THE RESULT OF MAINTAINING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COLONELS RIGHT UP TO THE TIME OF THEIR OVERTHROW. VAN DER STOEL'S PARTING SHOT ON KLM WAS THAT HE HOPED THAT US AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT BE TEMPTED TO WRITE OFF THE ISSUE NOW THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAS OPTED FOR THE F-16. THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE, HE CAUTIONED, BECAUSE THE PASSAGE OF TIME WILL DO NOTHING TO DIMINISH THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF KLM AS A NATIONAL ISSUE.

5. DEPARTMENT PASS AS DESIRED.
TANGUY

CONFIDENTIAL

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